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In Memoriam.

SIR DANIEL WILSON

(Died, 6th August, 1892)

WILLIAM KINGSFORD, LL.D.

II.—*Sir Daniel Wilson, (Died, 6th August, 1892).*

By WILLIAM KINGSFORD, LL.D.

(Read 23rd May, 1893.)

IN MEMORIAM.

I must ask you kindly to bear in mind that I am occupying your attention owing to the position I have the honour to hold this year in the English section, and by the desire of the president; not from the conviction that I am the most fit and the best able to do justice to the subject, which, by the rule of our society, has to-day to be brought before you in this form.

In the interval between our meeting of last year and the present time, one of our colleagues, a man of eminence both by position and merit, has experienced the inevitable fate of us all: Sir Daniel Wilson, late president of University College, Toronto. It is my duty to attempt to pay some tribute to his memory.

With many of us the ordinary circumstances of life are uneventful, and so devoid of dramatic interest, that, often, there is little to record more than our birth and death, with the change of scene, and field of effort and of association. Our true epitaph must be written according to the work we accomplish, and the influence we may exercise; not from the events in which we have taken part. Sir Daniel Wilson's career can claim little attention from the character of the incidents in which he appeared in prominence; nevertheless it is to his public life that we must look for the eminence he obtained. The void he has left in his own family, and in the circle of his near friends, is a matter too reverend to be made the theme of public allusion. Nor is it decent to parade in this place his well-known benevolence, his sympathy with every attempt to advance the well-being and happiness of others, and his desire in his station to do all the good he was able.

Sir Daniel Wilson was born in Edinburgh on the 5th of January, 1816, so at his death on the 6th of August of last year he was within five months of the completion of his seventy-seventh year. Having arrived in Canada in 1853, he was connected with Toronto University for nearly forty years. The eldest son in a large family of a merchant of good standing, he was educated at the high school of his native city, and subsequently attended the university. Others of his family were connected with the college, and one of his brothers rose to some eminence as a chemist, being at his death, in 1859, professor of technology.

Among Sir Daniel's accomplishments was that of being a skilful draughtsman and engraver. He attained such excellence as to suggest that he must once have designed to follow the career of an artist; his tastes, however, eventually turned to literature. He remained in his native city until his twenty-first year, contributing regularly to the

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press and periodical literature. His dexterity with the pencil was never lost, and to the last furnished him many an hour's occupation. His preference was finally given to a literary career, and in 1837 he made his way to London with the design of commencing his professional life.

The facts are not at my command for me to state the years he remained in the imperial capital, or the occupation he followed there. Undoubtedly he was more or less engaged in literary work. His general attainments, the untiring industry which to the last distinguished him would have made existence possible to him where others would have failed. Moreover he was following the bent of his inclination. The life presents great fascination to a young man conscious of his own powers, with the energy and determination to overcome obstacles. To the Philister the time so passed is looked upon as years thrown away, unless fortunate circumstances warrant the acceptance of the career. Besides the experience does not always work beneficially; it often leaves behind the sting of wrong suffered, the remembrance of injustice, of neglect experienced, and the embitterment of life by the insolence of petty tyrants met in places of prominence. There are many examples in literature of the traces of the painful ordeal of such trying times in a young life, observable in after years when men have risen to distinction. I will permit myself to allude to one only of modern times, to Robert Brough, a man of undoubted genius. His "Songs of the Governing Classes" bear the full impress of his wounded feeling. Wilson brought away from this period of his career no such bitterness. He was always kindly and genial, and on no occasion gave his countenance to the extreme view which casts a chill on the mirth of mankind, or to any extravagantly enforced moral discipline. His experience during these years obtained for him that knowledge of character for which he was afterwards known, and led him to avoid the advocacy of ultra opinions in the social reforms, always claiming attention, and often so perniciously advocated.

What proved to be of greater advantage, he learned to estimate correctly the character of good scholarship, and to form the true theory of the end to be sought in university training. At this time the danger appears to be that the student is over-weighted by the multiplicity of subjects forced upon him, to dissipate his time and attention, not to increase his attainments. Are we not being borne down by what is called "practical" education? The word we have received from across the line employed in various forms. We read of the practical "shoemaker" or "hatter." The man who possesses qualifications which lead him to rise above the spirit of mere material acquisition, or, on the other hand, who has somewhat failed in life is classified with those who are not "practical." The true and precise meaning of the word is sufficiently definite, viz., "adapted to use," "capable of performing a duty." Too many of failing humanity may possibly be included in the class of non-practical. Surely all education is primarily designed to perfect the character of the student, while storing his mind with information hereafter to be of value to him. In my humble judgment, it follows that the advocates in the higher schools and universities of special training in particular pursuits, in preference to laying a sound basis for future effort by elevating the general intelligence, fail to understand the object and intent of the education of youth. It may, I consider, be asserted that it was owing to Sir Daniel's knowledge of the world, and the personal experience gained during this period, that he formed the views of scholarship which distinguished him, so that in the exercise of his university authority he strove to concentrate, rather than to dissipate, the attention of the student.

After the expiration of some time, the duration of which I am unable to state, Wilson returned to his family in Edinburgh. He continued in the same career he had followed in London. We have no record of his early labours when in England, or of a later period. It is scarcely possible any such can be preserved. Contributions to periodical literature, written under the pressure of an occasion, may give proof of readiness, of correct writing and extensive reading. They scarcely furnish evidence of mental power. It is, however, related that he wrote a play. It has been the experience of many ; among the number, it is said, the late Mr. Cobden. There is, however, at this date such a divorce between literature and the drama, that the merit of a piece does not furnish ground for its acceptance.

Such as reach the stage in this form, are actors and managers, or are those who owe success to their influence, or to some extraordinary social power. Had Wilson succeeded his whole career would have been changed. His failure led him to pursue the study to which he had devoted much of his attention, that of archaeological research. In the meantime he continued his contributions to the press, but his labour was mainly concentrated upon a work which was to bring him into prominence. In 1847 he published the “Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time, with 126 illustrations”; a second edition of this book was brought out in 1891.

At that date Scotland appeared to the world with the halo which the genius of Scott has thrown upon it. His romance has created for its scenery universal fame, which, at least with that generation, led many to make a pilgrimage to the spots to which he had given renown. Few can visit the noble cathedral of Saint Mungo, at Glasgow, without bringing Rob Roy to his mind ; even the beauty of the architecture is lost in the thought of Bailie Nichol Jarvie. We wander through the wynds of the old city to people them with the personages of the novels. Who, when in Aberdeen, has failed to visit Marischal College, where Captain Dugald Dalgetty studied the humanities ? Inverness is identified with Culloden. Old Edinburgh, picturesque by its natural situation, becomes more striking to the imagination by the traditions and incidents of history which Scott made known, and the romance connected with them. The labours of Sir Daniel, therefore, at that time directly appealed to public sympathy. The research and careful treatment of the subject, both in the text and in the drawings from his pencil, deservedly obtained for the work great attention, so that it rapidly rose to the favour it has since retained.

The numerous readers who turn over the pages of these volumes, even cursorily, cannot fail to be struck by the admirable character of the drawings. They would not be exceeded in merit in any modern illustrated work. I allude especially to the execution of the buildings and landscapes. There is not a single plate which, in this respect, does not show artistic treatment. Wilson, however, was not equally happy in the figures introduced by him, for his drawing of them is defective. The figures themselves, however, are always brought in appropriately and with judgment. Such is the ability and dexterity of hand shown in this volume, that I cannot resist the impression that, at the early period of his life, Sir Daniel was an art student, with the view of following the career of a professional draughtsman and engraver. His work is not the effort of an amateur ; it is that of one trained to consider the requirements he had to meet : in itself an attainment distinct from manual dexterity and the aesthetic treatment of a subject. I have no grounds for the expression of this opinion, further than the impression which the character of Sir Daniel’s drawings has made upon myself.

If there be warrant for belief that in the earlier years of his career he entertained these views, the success of this work as a literary effort must have had great influence in modifying them. The attention which the book obtained was chiefly from its able treatment of a popular subject, sustained by much varied and reliable information, related simply, without ornate pretension, in language never to be misunderstood. The drawings were held to be entirely subordinate in merit to the carefully written letter-press, and the character of Sir Daniel's mind was one to be impressed by the reputation gained in this respect by the work.

In 1848 his essay on Cromwell appeared, based on what had been previously published, and placed in a connected form, without claim to originality of treatment, or by the production of previously unknown documentary evidence.

These two works gave Wilson reputation, and as by this time he had been appointed secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, his position in the world of letters became more assured. He was thrown among those capable of appreciating the industry and judgment, with which he had treated the different subjects he had undertaken. It may here be remarked, that in 1853, by the death of Arago, a vacancy having occurred in the honorary members of the society, limited to twenty, Wilson was elected to supply his place.

"The Archæology and Prehistoric Annals of Scotland," which appeared in 1851, attracted attention by the abundant illustrations which the volume contained, exceeding 200 in number; as a rule from Wilson's pencil. The book on all sides in a short time obtained favourable recognition. The principal reviews gave it a cordial welcome. What was of greater value, it received the unqualified praise of Hallam, then in the height of his reputation. It was greatly owing to the attention which this work received that Wilson was subsequently nominated to the position of "Professor of Science and Literature," in University College, Toronto. An enlarged edition of this work was published in 1863.

The amendment of the law in 1852, led to changes in the professional staff of Toronto University and eventually it took the form which generally it now presents. Dr. McCaul was then president. Dr. Wilson was included in the new appointments.

The duties of his office did not lead to silence; other publications followed, to which, from the limit of time at my disposal, I can do no more than allude. In 1863, his greatest work appeared, "Prehistoric Man, Researches into the Origin of Civilization in the Old and New World." This work reappeared, enlarged, in 1865 and 1876. "Chatterton," a biographical study, followed in 1869, and "Caliban, or the Missing Link," a physiological analysis of the character in the "Tempest," in 1873. Two volumes of poems, "Spring Wildflowers," in 1875; "Reminiscences of Old Edinburgh," in 1878; "William Nelson," a memoir, in 1890.

It remains to me to speak of his last work, which in its first form appeared in the 'Transactions' of the Society in 1885 and 1886 in two papers, "Palæolithic Dexterity," and "The Right Hand and Left-Handedness."

These papers furnished the basis of the larger volume published in 1891, the year before his death, "The Right Hand, Left-Handedness." It is of value as throwing some light on himself, for Sir Daniel was left-handed, as we may learn from its pages. We have in the volume a philosophical inquiry into the cause why mankind, as a rule, is right-handed, and from what influence the exceptional instances of left-handedness present themselves.

It is a monument of rare learning, evidently embracing the investigations of half a century. He traces back evidences of the remote use of the left hand as he expresses it, by palæolithic dexterity in the working of flat arrow heads, and in the carvings of deer and buffalo horns of prehistoric man; in Egyptian *intaglii* and *papyri*; through classical literature; amid the aborigines of the Fiji Islands, South Africa, Australia, and the Indians of this continent. Sir Daniel carried out his generalization with labour as a trained inquirer, and the work is remarkable for its rejection of theories based upon imperfect observation. He is the reverse of the French traveller who, finding himself in an inn where there was a young Russian girl, wrote in his diary that there were only Russian servants in the place: “*Dans ce village toutes les domestiques sont muscovites.*” Hence the value of the opinion which he has expressed, that it is estimated there are two only in every hundred who are left-handed, and that experience so far shows there are no left-handed races. So long as Sir Daniel is engaged on the inquiry in this form, he is on safe ground. He never accepts a theory without examination, without applying to it the same test which he would observe in counting the roll of bank notes he had received. When he enters the domain of medical science, he is at the mercy of the theorists he quotes, and they vary greatly. His experience was that of Hegio, the advocate in Terence’s “*Phormio,*” who when asked his views gave for his answer, “*Quot homines, tot sententiae.*” Sir Daniel accordingly becomes sceptical of what he hears. I humbly venture the remark, as any one must do, for in my poor judgment, it is one of the questions connected with the birth of humanity, which, like much of daily occurrence in this respect, must remain unsolved.

Sir Daniel in this work describes himself as having learned to use the pen in the right hand apparently with no greater effort than other boys. He proceeds to say: “In this way the right hand was thoroughly educated, but the preferential instinct remained. The slate pencil, the chalk, and penknife were still invariably used in the left hand in spite of much opposition on the part of teachers, and in later years when a taste for drawing had been cultivated with some degree of success, the pencil and brush are nearly always used in the left hand. At a comparatively early age the awkward way of using the spoon and knife at table in the left hand was perceived and overcome. Yet even now, when much fatigued, or on an occasion of unusual difficulty in carving a joint, the knife is instinctively transferred to the left hand. Alike in every case where unusual force is required, as in driving a large nail, wielding a heavy tool, or striking a blow with the fist, as well as in any operation demanding any special delicacy, the left hand is employed. Thus, for example, though the pen is invariably used in the right hand in penmanship, the crow quill and etching needle are no less uniformly employed in the left hand.” He continues: “I may add that I find no difficulty in drawing at the same time with a pencil in each hand profiles of men or animals facing each other. The attempt to draw different objects, as a dog’s head with the one hand, and a human profile with the other, is unsuccessful owing to the complex mental operation involved, and in this case the co-operation is apt to be between the mind and the more facile hand.”

I have before remarked on the excellence of Sir Daniel’s drawings to convey the idea that he must have pursued his efforts at one time with the design of following art as a calling; and there is a professional ring in these few sentences which certainly does not weaken the supposition. I was much surprised to find on the authority of Sir Daniel that Leonardo da Vinci was left-handed. Those who have visited the ruined Dominican

Convent at Milan, of Santa Maria delle Grazie, and have looked upon the "Cenacolo," must have difficulty in believing that it is the production of a left-handed man. This wonderful work of art, now greatly decayed, still preserves much of its wonderful beauty, and it is known to those who have not visited Italy, by the engraving of Raphael Morghen, published in 1800.

I am unable to speak of his contributions to general publications. Throughout his life he was a constant writer in the press and the magazines, until even within a few months of his death. The *Canadian Journal*, of Toronto, contains some of his most valuable contributions. As a rule they run in the direction he always willingly followed : antiquarianism and ethnology. The *Journal* was also edited by him for some years. He likewise wrote some articles for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

His contributions to the 'Transactions' of this society partook of the same character. In 1883, "Pre-Aryan American Men" appeared ; in 1885, "The Artistic Faculty of Aboriginal Races." In the same year, and in 1886, the two papers I have previously named. In 1886 likewise, "The Lost Atlantis" based on the Platonic dialogues of the 'Timaeus' and the 'Critias.' Quoting Jowett, that no one knew better than Plato to invent "a noble lie," Sir Daniel examines the opinion of Humboldt, that the legend is a possible vestige of a widely spread tradition of earlier times. His own conclusion is that "the legendary Atlantis must still remain a myth." In 1889, he wrote a paper on the "Trade and Commerce of the Stone Age." "Vinland of the Northmen," the last of his contributions, appeared in 1890. We must also remember that in 1882 Sir Daniel gave the inaugural address on the constitution of the society at its first meeting. I will only remark that, as all may suppose, he then expressed his sense of pride in the dignity and honour of being a British subject, adding the hope that the Dominion will continue to remain a portion of the great empire to which we belong.

On the retirement, owing to ill-health, of Dr. McCaul from the presidency of the university in 1881, Dr. Wilson was named to the post. He was the one person to whom public opinion pointed as Dr. McCaul's successor, and his nomination was on all sides acceptable. In 1888, he received the honour of knighthood. His death took place on the 6th of August last. Sir Daniel had been a widower since 1885. A daughter had previously passed away ; his second daughter, Miss Sybil Wilson, survives him.

It has been stated that in no long period after his arrival in Toronto, he was offered the presidency of McGill College, in Montreal, but that he declined the offer, having resolved to devote his energies to the advancement of University College, Toronto.

Such are the brief facts of Sir Daniel Wilson's uneventful life, at least in the incidents which appeal to public attention. In this society we have to consider his loss from the view of the influence he exercised on the higher education of his province. With the general public, his admitted status as a man of letters was more accepted on authority than based upon the wide popularity of his writings. It was a received fact that his books in the mother country had brought him fame and distinction, and that he had been selected for the post to which he had been appointed owing to the reputation he had gained ; but there were few who would not have been puzzled to describe the character of his writings.

Indeed they are not of a nature to obtain acceptance outside of the class to which they are addressed. His "Memorials of Edinburgh" could not aspire to general popularity. The book was addressed to the more intelligent of the community ; that it received praise

from those whose tastes it consulted is the greatest proof of its merit. His "Researches as to the Origin of Civilization," took a wider field, but it must remain the book of such readers as can give the time and attention to master so difficult a study. When it is said that Sir Daniel was not a popular writer, it is simply to say that he wrote above the horizon of his immediate *entourage*. But his books gained him fame in the world of scholarship, and they must hereafter be included in every library worthy of the name.

It was his distinction in this respect which led our founder, Lord Lorne, to select him as the first president of the English section in 1882. Sir William Dawson was then nominated president of the society, and the late Mr. Chauveau, vice-president. Sir Daniel was our fourth president, in 1885-1886. We all know the interest he took in our well-being, and we can each of us bear testimony to the good sense, the courtesy and the invariable ability with which he treated every question brought before us. On the last day of May at our last meeting, he addressed the members from the position I now occupy as his humble successor in the presidency of the English section. It was within ten weeks of his death. His health was at the time not good, for his unceasing labour had told upon him. He was in his seventy-seventh year, and although his mind was never more active, or his powers more mature, the physical strength which we possess in middle age was wanting. Sir Daniel might have been well excused from attending the meeting. He felt, however, that his duty enforced that he should be present, and with that devotion to principle which marked his life, he set aside all personal considerations.

His address on that occasion, on the law of copyright, is given in the volumes of the 'Transactions' of this year. It has, moreover, been published separately, and in this form disseminated among men of letters in England and the United States. To use his own words, it was his claim to place, on a just basis, the rights of authorship and the principles of copyright. This address may be regarded as a voice from Sir Daniel's grave, for he was unable to revise his manuscript or to read the proof. Those who were present will remember how distinctly he apparently read his written sentences; how continuously in one unbroken, powerful appeal he brought his case before his auditory. Circumstances led to my seeing the manuscript. It consisted of brief unconnected notes. The subject was, however, so impressed upon his mind, that he never faltered for a word, or used one out of place, or inappropriately.

He was present to plead the cause of literature, not from the sentiment of the gain he might derive from the working of the legislation he advocated. He had no long period to look forward to in this world. He held a lucrative office; his future was assured; and as his will shows, by his prudence he had acquired a competency. He entered the lists to record his protest against the injustice of the proposed law. He was actuated solely by the desire of protecting the man of letters. He held that it was a narrow view to regard a public writer as the mere producer of a marketable article, as a bread-winner. It is the argument of the trader who profits by this bestowal of thought and labour, and of the politician who desires to conciliate the favour of a clique, or to turn on his side interests which may conduce to his success. It can never be the thought of a man of a high tone of mind, who recognizes the political consequences which result from the enunciation of principles, and of historic facts, brought into prominence with truth and ability. One of the persons who advocated the claim of the "trade" and acted with the clique which strove to influence the policy of the Government, had the impudence to affirm that

"the author is but one of the factors that enter into the making of a successful book ; the publisher with his wide and varied connection and ready facilities for handling is frequently as important a factor as the author, and *proh pudor!* occasionally more so."

We all know one phase of this "handling" to use the expression of this person. Who has not been subject to the importunities of the book pedlar, often a young and pretty woman, with the petty tricks of sex, engaged to palm off some ill-written, useless book, with flash binding and prints of strong situations : a matter of profit to the publisher, pedlar and all concerned, from the wretched hack writer, upwards or downwards, as you place him ; his share being the smallest in the division.

What is the object of a copyright? It is twofold. In the first place to protect the writer, who gives years of concentrated, untiring labour to a work of recognized merit and utility, also to the honourable publisher who embarks his capital in the production of the work. In such cases success is not obtained at the beat of drum ; the attention which the work receives is not immediate. The recognition of its merit is a question of time, and whatever the character of the book it is generally a matter of expense and effort to bring it to the notice of the public. It is to assure these legitimate results, aimed at by author and publisher, that a proper period of protection should be granted, during which special privileges are accorded, so that the author may receive the reward due to him for his exertions, and the publisher be remunerated for his enterprise and labour.

The proposed copyright act limited the period of protection to twenty-eight years.

It contained also the astounding provision that publishers in Canada should have the right of reprinting any work published elsewhere, unless the work in question were printed and published in the Dominion within one month of its first appearance.

Sir Daniel brought the whole force of his character and reputation against such an enactment. The limit granted me to address you will not permit me longer to dwell upon the subject, but I will venture to lay down the principle which in my humble view a government in framing a copyright act should observe.

No copyright act should be passed from the *impetus* given to its provisions by "the trade" only. As Sir Daniel recommended, the government should address itself to this society, and to the universities, so that the public writer may be regarded as something higher than the "factor" that he has been claimed to be, by the class which desires to profit by his powers without fairly remunerating him.

His presence before us last year was a purely chivalrous advocacy of the cause of literature. If the course followed by him on that occasion had been destined to exercise any influence upon himself, it would have been to his disadvantage. Its tendency was to raise up around him a small swarm of scribbling wasps, who, themselves unknown, come upon men of eminence to inflict their sting, and fly back to obscurity. In his career two strongly defined principles are discernible : his moral courage and constancy of purpose. Not the courage of the swash-buckler ; for, free from impulse, it was sustained by a sense of right, by belief in his own convictions, and by reliance on the justice of the cause he represented ; courage tempered by judgment.

As president of Toronto University he had one of the most difficult duties in life to fulfil. His position placed him in contact with some hundreds of students of different temperaments in the first flush of feeling, "youth at the prow, pleasure at the helm," when the judgment is unformed and impulse takes the place of principle. They are no

longer boys, and the self-assertion to be held as men does not always take a wise form. There are times when coercion must be direct and vigorous. But ordinarily the exercise of authority must be that of suasion, based upon the respect and esteem obtainable by those who enforce it. The discipline must be firm, but it must be maintained with gentleness. Teachers of equitation will tell you that a tight rein and a light hand form the beauty of a rider. We all have heard the remark of Louis Philippe that the government of France was to be conducted by an iron hand in velvet glove, "*La main de fer dans un gant de velours.*" While Sir Daniel, like us all, was subjected to his share of criticism, he obtained great moral influence with all classes; his opinions always exacted respect, and his personal character in any crisis was one to make itself felt. With all his gentleness he did not falter on what he held to be the onward path he should follow. He acted as if guided by the advice given by the Cumæan Sybil to Æneas, "*contra audentior ito.*"

At the time of Sir Daniel's death it was said that the destruction of Toronto University by fire on the 14th of February, 1890, was one of its remote causes. There is no ground for the statement; it is simply a rhetorical assertion coined by some writer desirous of giving interest to his narrative, and it was never accepted as truth. Sir Daniel undoubtedly felt the great loss experienced on that occasion; but his was not a nature to be subdued by calamity, it was essentially one to rise superior to a reverse. His career showed that while he was the most gentle of men, and was never known to originate an altercation, he did not hesitate when the interests he represented were assailed to come forward boldly in their defence. He was not aggressive, but he never shrank from what he held to be the discharge of his duty, whatever the personal claim upon himself. The interests of the university on many occasions were assailed; Sir Daniel was always foremost in their defence, acting vigorously and unhesitatingly. He was not one to succumb to grief; in place of yielding to misfortune his strength of character led him to strive energetically to overcome it, whatever form it might assume.

What, however, may be said is, that in my humble judgment his continuous unre-laxed efforts to re-establish the university, and it is not a stilted phrase, as a "phœnix from its ashes," did impair his health. His labours for the last three years were remarkable. Their success can be read in the achievement of his attempt. No line of his epitaph should be placed in greater prominence than the record of his devotion in reintegrating the institution with which he had been so long and so worthily identified, of which he was then the head. That he morally rose equal to the occasion is as indisputable as it is undisputed, and that he so acted at the expense of his health is equally true.

He had arrived at a time of life when he required ease; his circumstances were such that he could readily have attained it. He could have retired from the university with a liberal acknowledgment of his service. His tastes would have suggested an occupation both congenial to him, and which could have been leisurely followed. He could have wandered through the ancient cities of Italy, and in many a spot have identified the locality of the renowned events of the previous centuries. While creating for himself an agreeable study he would have added to our national literature. He had the *entrée* into a society, the intercourse with which in his circumstances would have been a continual charm, where he would have found those who possessed his tastes, to interchange opinions, such as Cicero has recorded in his tract to *Atticus* "*De Senectute*" and to *Laelius* "*De Amicitia*." He rejected this temptation, and I cannot doubt that in moments of weariness and depres-

sion it crossed his mind. He remained at his post to fulfil the duties which he held it was incumbent upon him to perform, regardless of the continual strain upon his health and physical energies. I can conceive that in this way his life was shortened, for there is no reason why Sir Daniel should not have lived as long as Hallam or Tennyson.

I cannot close what I have here said without expressing the hope that the spirit which Sir Daniel Wilson endeavoured to infuse into university education will not be allowed to pass away.

There are grounds for belief that the purpose and intent of a university career are not in all directions regarded in their true character, and that there is a tendency, both in the high schools and universities, to depart from their legitimate sphere. Are we not introducing too many subjects for study, and these not always of an elevating character? Is not the tendency to impart some superficial acquaintance with many branches of knowledge, each of which demands many years of patient research to be thoroughly known? Thoughtful men do not regard the precincts of a college as a technical school by which professional facts can be learned. The primary duty is the training of the individual mind and character of the student, by implanting precepts of truth and honour, by furnishing strength of principle to withstand temptation, by inculcating a refined love of literature, by fostering self-reliance and the belief that knowledge can only be attained by careful and patient effort. The university should implant the conviction, that concentration of thought and undivided attention, the opposite to that diffused vagueness with which so many are satisfied, are essential to success in every walk of life. You thus build up the individual character in moral vigour; you create true views of the mental application which can alone lead to success, and without which no good result is attainable. You form a centre of primary knowledge, a basis for future diligence, around which you can coil the technical reading, and experience, and facts which constitute the professional attainments, by means of which the battle of life can be fought out, and a career successfully followed. You may look through the records of literature, of science, of art, of political life; you may probe the history of those who have attained eminence, I care not what the career has been, you will find that success in each case was not attributable to imperfect, uncertain, feverish, dissipated exertion, but to careful and conscientious study, directed within the limit of the acquirements by which reputation and fame have been gained.

I venture on these few remarks because I conceive they represent the principle which guided the conduct of Sir Daniel Wilson. It is to be hoped that those who direct and control our universities will not lose sight of their obligations in this respect; that they will recognize the duty of forming primarily the individual and moral elements of character by sound, healthy instruction, rather than encourage a general and imperfect acquaintance with several subjects, which from the limited time devoted to each pursuit, can only be trifling and superficial, and only leave behind a nebulous, uncertain trace of vain effort. Whereas the principle of steady disciplined industry will, with a high standard of what is attainable, bring with it the contempt of charlatanism and pretension, and implant that sentiment of truth, honour, devotion to duty and self reliance, which will prove a support in the hour of trial and misfortune, or dignify and ennoble prosperity and high station if they be obtained.

I fear that my attempt to pay this last mark of respect to our late colleague may appear to many insufficient and unsatisfactory. Those who were his personal friends and

were brought into frequent contact with him, who experienced his constant kindness, courtesy and gentleness of manner, bearing these virtues in remembrance, cannot but feel great personal sorrow at their loss. The members of this society have to regard his public character and to consider the light by which Sir Daniel Wilson must hereafter be viewed. His truth and integrity, however strong a feature in his character, did not appertain to him alone. His claim upon our memory must be founded on his scholarship, his rare knowledge, his industry as a man of letters, his independence of mind, his sense of duty as the head of a university in directing and controlling to the extent he could command, the higher education of the youth of his province. In this view he exacts universal respect. What higher tribute can we pay to his memory than the assertion that his life presents a career of unselfish usefulness and honourable effort, persevered in to the last, which we will all do well to imitate.

NOTE.

No greater homage was ever paid to the more generous and elevated system of education, at that date it must be admitted weakened by many imperfections, than the renowned lines to Eton by the Marquis of Wellesley. They were written in his 82nd year, some six months before his death, at the close of a career of almost unexampled prosperity and success. He raised the dignity of his family to a British peerage, and in his 37th year was appointed governor-general of India at a critical period. Although his policy had been vigorously assailed, it finally received full recognition for its wisdom. Twice he was viceroy of Ireland; he was the personal friend of his sovereign; and late in life was a member of the Melbourne administration. His family alike obtained the highest consideration, his brother being the great Duke of Wellington.

With all this glory and prominence he clung in thought to the training and discipline, which he held had made him what he had been. The lines have been considered as written by Lord Wellesley for his epitaph. To my mind they must be regarded as being equally an expression of the feeling he entertained of the early influences by which his character had been moulded :

“Fortunâ rerumque vagis exercitus undis
In gremium redeo, serus, Etona tuum;
Magna sequi, et summæ mirari culmina famæ,
Et purum antiquæ lucis adire jubar,
Auspice te didici puer; atque in limine vitæ
Ingenuas veræ laudis amare vias.
Si qua meum vita decursu Gloria nomen
Auxerit, aut si quis nobilitaret honos,
Muneris, Alma, tui est: Altrix da terra sepulchrum!
Supremam lacrymam da! memoremque mei.”

I beg leave to append the following attempted translation :

By fortune driv'n and fate's wand'ring wave
Late, Eton ! to thy bosom I return:
As boy, beneath thy auspices I learn'd
To follow what was great, and to admire
The topmost heights of fame, and brilliance pure
Of ancient light: on life's threshold, too,
The noble path of true praise to pursue.
If in life's course my name has gain'd some fame
Or any honour hath ennobled it
Oh, foster mother, thine the gift: grant me a grave
And to my mem'ry let the last tear shed be thine.

